(iii) Whistle Blower Act: The Central Vigilance Commissioner had requested to the Chairman, Law Commission to consider drafting a whistle Blower Act on the lines of United kingdom and United States of America to encourage honest public servants to expose corrupt practices. No formal proposal has been received by the Government in this regard so far.

(iv) The Benami Transaction (Prohibition) Act, 1988: As per the information furnished by the department of Revenue, the matter regarding relevant amendments in the statute to make it workable is under process in consultation with the Ministry of Law.

Cases of corruption at high places persued by the CBI

3618. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) apart from the fodder scam cases in Bihar, how many other cases involving corruption in high places and politicians are being pursued by the CBI in the last two years and the details thereof;

(b) in how many such cases charge sheets have been filed by the agency; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) In the years 1998 and 1999, apart from the fodder scam cases in Bihar, the CBI has registered 7 and 2 cases respectively, relating to corruption against politicians. Out of the aforesaid 9 cases, chargesheet has been filed in one case relating to assets disproportionate to the known sources of income of a former Chief Minister of a State.

Leave Travel Concession to Government Employees

3619. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government employees are entitled to All India Travel once during four years while in service;

(b) whether most of the employees did not avail the concession in early service career for obvious reasons and thus forego their entitlement; and

(c) if so, whether Government would extend this benefit of carry over to Central Government employees at the time of their retirement in order to boost tourism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Various controlling authorities in the Ministries/Departments are empowered to regulate the Leave Travel Concession claims in respect of the Government servants working under them. Hence, no data is centrally maintained in this regard.

(c) Under the Central Civil Services (Leave Travel Concession) rules, a Government servant who is unable to avail of the Leave Travel Concession within a particular block of four years, may avail of the same within the first years off the next block of four years but the facility cannot be availed after retirement. The Leave Travel Concession Rules are already liberal and no further liberalisation is under consideration.

Measures to contain quantum of flaring loss of Natural Gas

3620. DR. (SMT) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA: Will the Minister PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the quantum of flaring loss of Natural Gas, so far incurred from the super Assam oilfield, quantify-wise and value-wise, and measures initiated by Government to contain the loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): The quantum of gas flared from the Upper Assam oil field till end of March, 2000 was approximately 21.7 BCM. The notional value of gas flared including technical and unavoidable flaring comes to approximately Rs. 588 crores.

Efforts to reduce gas flaring is a continuous process. Some of the measures undertaken to reduce gas Flaring include—

(i) Installation of compression facility, debottlenecking and construction of gas evacuation pipelines.